

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 03857 181001Z

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /010 W

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P R 180920Z MAR 76  
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3172  
CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 3857

USIAC

FOR SECSTATE EA/PHL

USIA - IEA  
CINCPAC - USIA ADVISOR

E.O. 11652: NA

SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS - MARCH 12 - 18, 1976

### I. PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. A HEARTBEAT AWAY -- THE MANILA PRESS THIS WEEK  
WAS FULL OF THE HERETOFORE VERBOTEN DISCUSSION OF WHO WOULD  
SUCCEED PRESIDENT MARCOS IF SOMETHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO HIM.  
ALTHOUGH THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED LAST YEAR THAT HE HAD PREPARED  
A SECRET DECREE NAMING HIS SUCCESSOR, PUBLIC CURIOSITY HAS  
OVERTAKEN PRIVATE PRUDENCE AND VARIOUS GROUPS, INCLUDING  
SEVERAL SANGGUNIANG BAYANS, HAVE CALLED OR BEEN PROMPTED TO CALL  
ON MARCOS TO MAKE KNOWN HIS CHOICE.

GOVERNORS AND MAYORS IN LUZON HAVE ASKED THE  
PRESIDENT TO ISSUE A PUBLIC SUCCESSION DECREE OR TAKE THE ISSUE  
TO A REFERENDUM CONFIRMING HIS POWER TO ISSUE SUCH A DECREE.  
THE PRESIDENT'S OPPONENTS CONTEND MARCOS DOESN'T HAVE THE  
AUTHORITY TO NAME HIS OWN SUCCESSOR.

NEWSPAPER READERS, MEANWHILE, LOOKING FOR CLUES,  
GOT REMARKEABLY LITTLE HELP FROM MANILA COLUMINISTS WHO  
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PAGE 02 MANILA 03857 181001Z

SUPPOSEDLY HAVE THE PRESIDENT'S EAR. THEIR PROGNOSSES HAVE

BEEN AS VARIED AS THE RUMORS.

A SPATE OF RECENT ARTICLES IN THE AMERICAN PRESS  
(NEWSWEEK, NEW YORK TIEMS, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE  
MONITOR) HAVE SPECULATED THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE WAS  
MANEUVERING FOR THE JOB, BUT IN A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR  
ARTICLE (MARCH 11) ENTITLED "MANILA'S FIRST LADY IN WAITING,"  
MRS. MARCOS REPORTEDLY SAID "BEING PRESIDENT IS A MAN'S  
JOB AND I USE TOO MUCH HEART."

2. PRESS TIRADES RUNNING DOWN -- THE TIMES  
JOURNAL CONTINUED ITS FRONT-PAGE VENDETTA AGAINST TWO U.S.  
CONSULAR OFFICERS WHO OUSTED AN OBSTREPOROUS FEMALE VIA  
APPLICANT A FORTNIGHT AGO AND AGAINST THE FLOW OF TAX-FREE GOODS  
FROM BASES PXS. THE NEWSPAPER REPORTED THAT THE "FLOWER OF  
PHILIPPINE WOMANHOOD" INVOLVED HAD BEEN ACCORDED A  
SYMPATHETIC HEARING BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND THAT S STRONG OFFICIAL PROTEST WAS IN THE OFFING.  
MEANWHILE THE EMBASSY STUCK TO ITS "NO COMMENT" POLICY  
DESPITE REPEATED BAITED QUERIES FROM CALLERS AND AT WEEK'S  
END THE JOURNAL'S GRUEL WAS GETTING THINNER AND THINNER.

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## II. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

CULTURAL WEEK A SUCCESS - POST'S CULTURAL WEEK IN  
HONOR OF BICENTENNIAL PROVED A SOLID SUCCESS DESPITE SPOTTY  
TURNOUT FOR CONTEMPORARY CHAMBER ENSEMBLE. PACAF  
BAND PLAYED ITS "AMERICA 200" PROGRAM TO A PACKED HOUSE  
IN CCP'S LITTLE THEATER AND THREE CONTINUOUS INVITATIONAL  
SHOWINGS OF "THE EMIGRANT" AND "THE NEW LAND" WERE  
WELL ATTENDED. PRESS REVIEWS OF CCE PRAISED GROUP FOR SKILL  
AND SENSITIVITY. EVENING POST CALLED CONCERTS "EXCITING"  
AND DAILY EXPRESS' ROSALINA OROSA DUBBED SERIES "ONE  
OF MOST SIGNIFICANT MUSICAL EVENTS OF YEAR." ATTENDANCE  
AVERAGED AROUND 600 IN CULTURAL CENTER'S 1800A SEAT MAIN  
AUDITORIUM, BUT CROWDS WERE SURPRISINGLY ENTHUSIASTIC AND  
EAGER TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS NEW (FOR MOST FILIPINOS)  
MUSICAL MEDIUM.

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PAGE 03 MANILA 03857 181001Z

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <28 SEP 2004 by izenbei0>  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, RP, (MARCOS, FERDINAND)  
**To:** USIA  
**Type:** TE  
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